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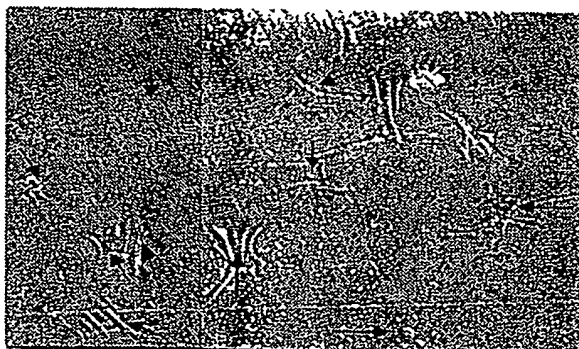
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(54) Title: **NOVEL SCREENS TO IDENTIFY AGENTS THAT MODULATE RETINAL BLOOD VESSEL FUNCTION AND PERICYTE FUNCTION AND DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC APPLICATION THEREFOR**

Phase-contrast micrograph of pericytes contracting a silicone rubber substrate



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides methods for determining or identifying compounds that modulate the function of an isolated retinal pericyte or blood vessel, wherein a change in the contractile state of said pericyte or blood vessel is determined in the presence of a test compound, said change indicating that the test compound modulates the function of pericytes and/or blood vessels.

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